

Message Text

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S E C R E T CAIRO 9089

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, EG
SUBJECT: MILITARY SUPPLY AND POSSIBLE SALE OF LICENSED EQUIPMENT
TO EGYPT

REF: (A) STATE 111881, (B) STATE 111882, (C) CAIRO 8676

SUMMARY: DISCUSSED REFERENCE SUBJECTS WITH GAMASY LAST NIGHT. HE UNDERSTANDS IMPORTANCE AVOIDING ANY PREMATURE PUBLICITY ON THE FIVE MILITARY SPPLY ITEMS. ON POSSIBLE SALE OF LICENSED EQUIPMENT, GAMASY INDICATED THAT BECAUSE OF PAST UNCERTAINTY WITH U.S. LICENSING PROCEDURES, HE HAS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS PEOPLE NOT TO SOLICIT OFFERS FROM AMERICAN COMPANIES. ON SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE LICENSING, GAMASY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM AND INDICATED GOE IS NOT INTERESTED IN RADIOS OR AMERICAN-MANUFACTURED UTILITY HELICOPTERS. GOE HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS OBTAIN THESE TIEMS FROM EUROPEAN SOURCES. DRONES AND PASSIVE NIGHT VISION DEVICES ARE OF SOME INTEREST TO HIM, BUT HE WISHED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND MIGHT BE IN TOUCH WITH ME AGAIN ON THE SUBJECT. AS A MATTER OF POLICY, GAMASY INDICATED GOE PREFERES TO WORK ON A GOVT-TO-GOVT BASIS RATHER THAN DIRECTLY WITH THE COMPANIES. ACCORDING TO HIM, THIS IS PROCEDURE GOE FOLLOWS WITH PUROPEAN PURCHASES.

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SHOULD GOE WANT SOMETHING FROM A PARTICULAR AMERICAN COMPANY, HE PROPOSED TO WORK THROUGH US. IN HIS JUDGMENT, HOWEVER, SUCH NEEDS ARE LIKELY TO BE "MINIMAL OR NIL."
END SUMMARY.

1. AS REQUESTED BY SADAT, I MET LAST NIGHT WITH DEPUTY PRIMIN/MINWAR GENERAL GAMASY TO DISCUSS REFERENCE

SUBJECTS. THE PRESIDENT HAD ALREADY GIVEN HIM SOME IDEA OF WHAT WAS INVOLVED.

2. I FIRST TOLD HIM ABOUT THE FIVE MILITARY SUPPLY ITEMS (REF B) RE WHICH WE ARE NOW ENGAGED IN CONSULTING WITH THE CONGRESS. IN DOING SO, I STRESSED THE SENSITIVITY OF THE SUBJECT AND THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING ANY PRE-MATURE PUBLICITY. GAMASY TOOK NOTES ON THE FIVE ITEMS AND COMMENTED DRYLY THAT IT IS NOT HIS PRACTICE TO ENGAGE IN PUBLICITY ABOUT MILITARY PURCHASES.

3. I THEN WENT OVER THE FIVE CATEGORIES CITED REF A, STRESSING THAT I COULD NOT AT THIS TIME MAKE ANY COMMITMENT ON ANY OF THE ITEMS BUT WAS SIMPLY SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF EXACTLY WHAT GOE'S INTEREST MIGHT BE. I ALSO EMPHASIZED THE PROBLEM OF CO-PRODUCTION AND TOLD HIM THAT OUR APPROACH WAS BASED SOLELY ON POSSIBLE SALES TO EGYPT, NOT TO THE AIO, ABOUT WHICH WE HAD NOT YET DEVELOPED AN OVER-ALL POLICY.

4. AS I WAS GOING DOWN THE LIST, GAMASY STOPPED ME TO SAY HE WISHED TO EXPLAIN MINWAR POLICY ON PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FROM AMERICAN COMPANIES. MINWAR HAS INDEED RECEIVED A LARGE NUMBER OF PROPOSALS FROM SUCH COMPANIES, COVERING EVERYTHING FROM COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO HELICOPTERS. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTY OF USG LICENSING, HE HAD SOMETIME AGO GIVEN ORDERS TO HIS PEOPLE NOT TO SOLICIT OFFERS FROM ANY AMERICAN COMPANY. SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE EGYPTIAN

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MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON NOT TO APPROACH ANY AMERICAN COMPANY. GAMASY PERSONALLY SAID HE HAS REFUSED TO SEE REPRESENTATIVES FROM AMERICAN COMPANIES FOR THE SAME REASONS. IN ANY CASE, SO FAR AS HE IS CONCERNED, HE DOES NOT WANT MINWAR TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH AMERICAN COMPANIES. AS GOE IS DOING WITH UK, FRANCE AND OTHERS, ANY MILITARY EQUIPMENT SALES SHOULD BE ARRANGED ON A GOVT TO GOVT BASIS. HE WISHED TO FOLLOW THE SAME PROCEDURE IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE PURCHASES FROM AMERICAN COMPANIES IF MINWAR CONCLUDES AT ANY TIME IT WANTS SOMETHING FROM A PARTICULAR AMERICAN COMPANY. HE OPINED SUCH NEEDS ARE LIKELY TO BE "MINIMAL OR NIL," AS HE PUT IT.

5. ON THE SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE LICENSING, GAMASY SAID HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM REQUEST. THIS HAD NOT COME FROM MINWAR AND HE IS NOT INTERESTED IN SUCH EQUIPMENT. ON SELECTED COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, GAMASY ALSO INDICATED HE IS NOT INTERESTED.

VARIOUS TYPES OF RADIOS HAVE ALREADY BEEN BOUGHT FROM EUROPEAN FIRMS. UTILITY HELICOPTERS HAD ALSO BEEN BOUGHT FROM EUROPEAN SOURCES AND HE HAD NO NEED FOR AMERICAN HELICOPTERS.

6. GAMASY DID INDICATE A POSSIBLE INTEREST IN TARGET DRONES AND PASSIVE NIGHT VISION DEVICES, BUT SAID THAT HE COULD NOT AT THIS TIME PROVIDE ANY DETAILS. HE WOULD

WANT TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND MIGHT BE IN TOUCH WITH ME AGAIN ON IT.

7. COMMENT: AS IS EVIDENT FROM THE ABOVE, GAMASY HAS PRETTY MUCH GIVEN UP AMERICAN FIRMS AS A POSSIBLE SOURCE OF NONLETHAL EQUIPMENT USABLE BY THE MILITARY. WE MAY, HOWEVER, HEAR FROM HIM ON THE DRONES AND PASSIVE NIGHT VISION DEVICES AND CONCEIVABLY HE MAY COME UP WITH SOME OTHER ITEMS. FOR THE MOMENT, THE BALL IS ENTIRELY IN
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THE EGYPTIAN COURT AND I THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE IT THERE UNTIL AND UNLESS WE HEAR FROM GAMASY ABOUT ONE OR ANOTHER OF THESE ITEMS. IN THAT EVENT, WE WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER WE ARE PREAPRED TO LICENSE SUCH EQUIPMENT AND, IF SO, WHETHER WE ARE PREPARED TO ACT IN AN INTERMEDIARY CAPACITY BETWEEN THE EGYPTIAN GOVT AND THE AMERICAN COPANY AS WE ARE DOING WITH LOCKHEED IN CONNECTION WITH C-130'S. I WILL CHECK WITH CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES ON THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMM
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